

HEATING INSTALLING A TOWEL RADIATOR

A towel radiator is a luxurious addition to any bathroom. There are many designs available, from simple ladders in white or chrome to stylish designer models. They are installed in the same way as a standard radiator.

Fitting a new towel radiator

The easiest way to install a new towel radiator is to replace a radiator of the same width. In that case there's no need to drain the system, nor to take up flooring and skirting boards. You simply turn off the heating then isolate the old radiator by shutting off the valves on either side before removing it from the wall (see page 331). The new towel radiator is connected to the existing pipework.

However, if you want to run chrome pipes to match a new chrome radiator, or your new radiator is a different width from the old one,

you will need to drain the system and make alterations to the pipework. This will enable you to choose from a much wider range of replacement radiators, and is straightforward using modern plumbing fittings, which are very easy to work with and need no heating or soldering. Drain the system before you begin (see page 329) and remove flooring and skirting as necessary in order to gain access to the pipework.

Mounting the new towel radiator

Remove the old radiator (see page 331) and brackets and fill the fixing holes. The wall and new fixings must be strong enough to hold the weight of the towel radiator when filled with water. Leave at least 20cm between the bottom rail and the floor.



1 Screw in the bleed valve and blank plug of the new towel radiator. Protect the chrome with a cloth and tighten with an adjustable spanner.



2 Align the radiator to the pipework and mark the fixing positions of the new brackets. If fixing to a tiled surface, attach a horizontal strip of masking tape to the tiles at the upper and lower fixing positions: this will be easier to mark with a pencil, and will also help prevent the drill bit slipping.



3 Check the bracket positions are vertically and horizontally aligned, and that there are no hidden pipes or cables, then drill. Remove the masking tape, insert wallplugs, and screw the bracket bases to the wall using the screws and washers provided. Take care not to overtighten, as this can crack the tiles.

project essentials

- adjustable spanner
- pencil
- long spirit level
- pipe and cable detector
- power drill with masonry or ceramic tile bits
- screwdriver
- pipe wrench or waterpump pliers
- adjustable spanner
- mini pipe cutter
- filler
- masking tape
- PTFE tape
- towel radiator with brackets and fixings
- pair of radiator valves
- 15mm copper or chrome-plated copper pipe
- 2 telescopic extending radiator tails
- compression elbow joint

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Warm and dry towels all year round

Some towel warmers can be fitted with an optional electrical element.

This means you can have warm, dry towels all year round – even when your central heating is switched off. Remember that different rules of electrical safety apply in a bathroom (see page 268). The electrical installation should be done by a professional electrician.



4 Attach the bracket stems to the towel radiator, then push the assembled radiator onto the bracket bases, following the manufacturer's instructions. Check the radiator is level. Don't fully tighten the bracket screws yet – you may need to dismount the radiator again before you finish.

Connecting to the pipework

For the best result when installing a chrome towel radiator, use chrome-plated copper pipe to match. You can snap a chrome-effect pipe cover (see **MAKING IT EASIER**) over the section of visible pipe that you are not replacing. Telescopic extending radiator tails make it easier for the novice plumber to get a precise fit.



Fit telescopic extending tails to the towel radiator inlet and outlet. It may be easier to take the radiator off the wall to do this.

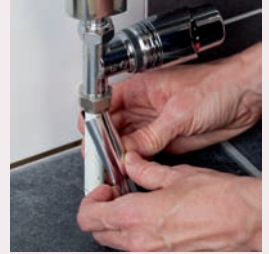


Fit a compression elbow joint to the telescopic extending tail on the radiator inlet. Cut a length of pipe to run from the new elbow to the existing radiator valve. Remember to apply PTFE tape to the threads of compression fittings.



Unscrew the old valve head and replace it with the new one. Remount the radiator. Use a suitable compression fitting to attach the radiator outlet to the pipework on the other side. Only fully tighten the joints once all the pipework is in place and fitting accurately. Hold each fitting steady with a pipe wrench or waterpump pliers and tighten the compression nuts using an adjustable spanner. Take care not to overtighten.

B&Q Making it easier



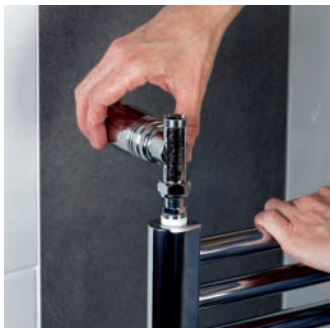
Upgrade your pipes
Give old radiator pipes an instant makeover with chrome-effect plastic pipe covers. Simply cut to length and snap in place.



Upgrade your valve
Even if you are not replacing the valve, you can often unscrew the old valve head and replace it with a new one.

Running new pipework

If you are planning to run new pipework to the radiator, the system needs to be drained (see page 329) and the pipes exposed. Make sure all new pipe fittings are below floor level. Once you have connected each side of the radiator, turn on the water and heating and check it is working with no leaks before replacing flooring and skirting.



Wrap PTFE tape around the threads of the radiator valve compression joint and attach it to the radiator. It may be easier to take the radiator off the wall to do this. Remount the radiator.



Use a mini pipe cutter to cut through the hot water supply pipe. Clean the cut end with wire wool.



Attach a push-fit straight coupler. Measure and cut a short length of pipe to extend the supply pipe as far as the inlet of the new radiator.



Connect the horizontal and vertical sections of the new inlet pipe using a compression elbow joint. Remember to apply PTFE tape to the threads. Repeat to connect the radiator to the pipework on the other side.

project essentials

- **tape measure**
- **mini pipe cutter**
- **wire wool**
- **pipe wrench or waterpump pliers**
- **adjustable spanner**

- PTFE tape
- 2 copper push-fit straight couplers
- 15mm copper pipe
- 15mm chrome-plated copper pipe
- 2 compression elbow joints



Measure and cut a section of chrome-plated pipe to run from the radiator inlet down to the supply pipe.